made since the security provided by the Home Guards was not considered satisfactory by the Central Pension Accounting Office. The annual expenditure being incurred on the new arrangement is Rs. 1.80 lakhs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Yamuna Action Plan

3658. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Yamuna Action Plan Project is being funded by the Government of Japan,

(b) if so, the estimate cost thereof; and

(c) the total amount of Japanese assistance obtained for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan is providing soft loan to part finance the Yamuna Action Plan.

(b) The estimated cost of the Yamuna Action Plan is Rs. 479.56 crores.

(c) An amount of Japanese Yen 17.773 billion as financial assistance is available for Yamuna Action Plan.

Chief Ministers of North Eastern States

3659. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any circular seeking opinion of the 5 Chief Ministers of North Eastern States on a proposal for the merger of five existing states into a single State in July last has been issued;

(b) if so, the salient features of the circular; and

(c) the reaction of the Chief Ministers thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Compensation to Farmers of Border Areas

3660. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have paid compensation to the farmers whose land has been acquired for erecting fencing along the Indo-Pak border;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the compensation is likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). The Compensation to the farmers whose land has been used for fencing on Indo-Pak border is already being paid through concerned State Governments and the matter is being pursued with them for payment to the farmers at the earliest.

[English]

Illegal Arms

3661. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a racket of illicit arms with Pakistan link has been brusted in Delhi on September 22, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of seizures and the persons apprehended in this regard indicating the modus operandi of the gang and its Pakistani links; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by the Government to liquidate the gang their activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Delhi Police arrested two persons on the 22nd September, 1996 from opposite the Taj Hotel, Jama Masjid, Delhi and recovered 50 live cartridges from them. The U.P. Police had a day earlier arrested two other Persons from Saharanpur from whom several revolvers and pistols alongwith cartridges were recovered. The investigations conducted in these two cases have revealed that the persons arrested at the two places had links with some Pakistani associates and the arms were being brought in from Pakistan for use in terrorist and disruptive activities in the country. A "coolie" working at Attari Border who was being used as a conduit for supply of the arms and ammunition to the arrested persons was also arrested by the U.P. Police.

(c) The measures taken by the Delhi Police to curb such activities in Delhi include close co-ordination with the Central and State Intelligence agencies; checking of suspected guest houses/hide-outs, strict watch on foreigner' tourist camps; larger deployment of spotters/ watchers; verfication of new tenants; checking of supected vehicles; display of photographs of known terrorists at public places and soliciting greater public cooperation.

[Translation]

Working of Fellowship unit of Ambedkar Foundation

3662. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any